

JUNTOLOVO

Geography

State-governed nature reserve “Juntolovo” is situated in the western part of Saint-Petersburg’s Primorsky District. The territory is located in the western part of Lakhta plain in the climate zone of south taiga.

The territory of “Juntolovo” reserve **encompasses** the Lakhta Bay, the Chernaya, Kamenka, Juntolovka, Glukharka rivers, Lakhta swamp. This area is surrounded by two parks, which the citizens of Saint-Petersburg enjoy.

The history of the reserve started in 1919 when some of the most respected scientists of Saint-Petersburg **initiated** the creation of a nature reserve between Staraya Derevnya and Lisiy Nos. They explained that this land was valuable due to its original flora and fauna as well as to the fact that it was the place for the **stopover** of migrating birds. In 1919 a tour station started its work. A Polar explorer Vittenburg became its head. He also established Nature Museum of the Neva river region. The station continued its work till 1932, having played an important role in the nature research.

It wasn’t until 1990 that the territory became a nature reserve.

Flora

The main part of the reserve is covered by pine and birch forests, as well as swamps. Black alder, greenwood and bushes are less common. There are around 380 species of plants all in all. Some of them are unique for our region and are included in the Red Book of Russia.

Fauna

Osprey, or fish-hawk, is extremely **rare**. Now it is becoming more **numerous**, however, it is still protected by law not only in Russia but also in Estonia, Finland and other Baltic countries.

The Lakhta Bay, being the place for stopovers of **waterfowl**, has played a great role in supporting the local birds. Unfortunately, due to deforestation, many birds disappeared both in the reserve and in the neighboring territory.

Fox, hare, muskrat and roe deer are quite common. You can easily find the homes of river beaver.

The area around the Lakhta Bay has been populated for a long time. The lands along the Juntolovka and the Kamenka river were used for farming. The **irrigation** of swamps began in the XIX century.

The nature of Lakhta plain changed **dramatically** in the XX century. Peat excavation started in 1916. It played an important role as it served as fuel for the besieged Leningrad. In 1962 soil was taken for construction from the seabed. It resulted in the increasing depth of the bay and swamp irrigation. Now the Bay is 4,3 – 8,3 meters deep. It continued till 1990, damaging greatly the territory and its inhabitants. Even more damage was done by the construction of Western Speed Diameter – the highway built on the territory of two parks. However, some plants species were removed and planted in Saint Petersburg Botanical garden.

In addition, Lakhta Center skyscraper is being built close to the southern border of the reserve. Research shows that it is going to be in the **migratory paths** of different bird species, a part of which is bound to **perish**. To prevent this, it is necessary to use special **glazing**, green spectrum lighting at night alongside with taking other precaution measures.

To protect the nature reserve it is prohibited to hunt, cut down trees, make fires, drive or sail motor boats on the territory.

Answer the questions:

1. What climate zone does Juntolovo represent?
2. What territories does the reserve include?
3. How was the reserve established?
4. Why is it important for the vegetation of the region?
5. What wildlife does the reserve host?
6. How important was this territory for the industrial development?
7. How does modern life interfere with the wildlife of the reserve?
8. How can the problems of the reserve be solved?

Explain the words in the bold.

Match the phrases:

Prohibited
Peat
Serve
Migratory
Precaution
Initiate
Nature
become

More numerous
Paths
Measures
Reserve
Creation
Excavation
To hunt
As fuel

Think:

Is it possible to develop Saint Petersburg and to keep Juntolovo intact at the same time?